

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

JULY 25 0420Z JUL 76
E RUSBLK 5328 1734Z
NY CCCCC ZH
020350Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 764
INFO RUSBGD/AMEMBASSY DELAWARE 7343
RUENMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1947
RUSSOF/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5094
RUCHMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6349
BT
CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 5308

ACTION
POL3

INFO:
AMB
DCM
ECOM
PH

ICA
SHIRAZ
CRUZ
TRAB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IR, AF
SUBJECT: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN IS ANOTHER HIGH-RANKING
PARCHANIST

REF: TEHRAN 5253 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO THE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE YOUTHFUL DR. NAJIB, WHO FORMERLY USED THE NAME SYED NAJBULLAH, CONTAINED IN THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS AFGHAN ENVOY TO TEHRAN (REFTEL). HE REPORTEDLY IS ONLY ONE YEAR OUT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND WAS THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR A FEW WEEKS FOLLOWING THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION. IN THE SUBSEQUENT JOCKEYING FOR POSITIONS (WHICH OBVIOUSLY IS CONTINUING), NAJIB, A MEMBER OF THE FORMER PARCHAN WING OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN, BECAME A "SPECIAL ASSISTANT" TO REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, AN APPOINTMENT THAT WAS NEVER MADE PUBLIC.

2. NAJIB'S SELECTION FOR TEHRAN IS UNQUESTIONABLY PART OF THE ONGOING PURGE OF PARCHANISTS FROM THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE NEW REGIME'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. OF THE SIX AFGHAN AMBASSADORS FOR WHOM AGREEMENT HAS DEFINITELY BEEN ASEXED, NOT ONE IS A KNOWN MALICIST, WHILE FIVE ARE CONFIRMED PARCHANISTS. THE FUTURE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BABRAK KHADEMI, LEADER OF THE FORMER PARCHAN TOPS THE LIST OF RUMORS IN KABUL. AND THE FAVORITE VERSION NOW IS THAT HE HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT A POST ABROAD AND WILL REMAIN IN KABUL COME WHAT MAY. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE CONTINUE TO SEE NO SIGNS THAT THIS PARTICULAR EPISODE HAS RESULTED IN ANY HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES IN THE CAPITAL, BUT THE REGIME'S SENSE OF URGENCY IN REQUESTING MOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT FOR THESE AMBASSADORS COULD INDICATE THAT TARAKI AND HIS COLLEAGUES PREFER TO HAVE THEIR RIVALS OUT OF AFGHANISTAN PRONTO. AN IRANIAN DIPLOMAT TOLD US THAT THREE DAYS AFTER NAJIB'S NAME WAS SUBMITTED TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, AMBASSADOR DAUOUDI WAS CALLED TO THE MFA AND ASKED, "WHY THE DELAY?" HE SOON APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE INEVITABLE, AND GRANTED AGREEMENT WITHIN TWO DAYS.

AMSTUTZ

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